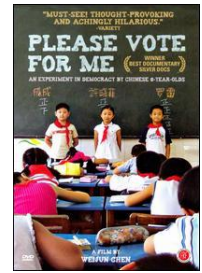


Mandarin

Examination board: Edexcel (9CN0)



This course is designed to build your confidence in engaging with the Mandarin language. Moreover, through the critical exploration of engaging texts and films, you will deepen your understanding of the culture and society of Chinese-speaking regions. You will also have the opportunity to hone your research skills through the undertaking of an individual research project focused on an aspect of Chinese history, culture or society.

Teaching at A level is primarily delivered in Mandarin. Group sizes are small, and pupils will also benefit from one-to-one sessions with our language assistant; you will therefore have ample opportunity to develop your confidence in speaking and listening.

All four skills (listening, reading, speaking and writing) are assessed in Year 13. There will be frequent opportunities for formative assessment throughout the course, and you will have more substantial assessments at the end of Year 12 and January of Year 13 (mock exams) to enable you to reflect on your progress and to set targets.

Course content

Year 12

The first three themes are assessed in the listening, speaking and reading papers. The fourth theme – literature – is assessed through the written paper.

1. Changes in contemporary Chinese society

- Family: family structure, ageing population, equality in marriage, parent-child relationships.
- Education & Work: the impact of school life, exams, tuition, job market, and work pressures.

2. Chinese culture

- Traditions & Festivals: significance of New Year, customs, festivals, and the Lantern Festival.

- Cultural Activities: Chinese traditional arts, movies, music, and sports.

3. Evolving Chinese society

- Communication & Technology: technology's impact on society, social media trends, and globalization.
- Media: role of newspapers, radio, TV, internet, and advertising.
- Revision for the End of Year Exam.

4. Literature

- Study of the novel: 《一只叫凤的鸽子》 ("A Dove Named Feng").

Year 13

1. Impact of reform and opening up in 1978 on China

- Economy & Environment: modern Chinese economy, environmental issues, and protection efforts.
- Reform: rich-poor gap, urban migration, super cities, and work-life balance.
- China-UK Relationship: trade, cultural exchanges, and educational exchanges.

2. Film

- Study of the film: 《请投我一票》 ("Please Vote for Me").

3. Exam preparation

- Revision, exam techniques, essay writing, speaking practice, and past papers for A Level exams.

Assessment

The specification is the **Pearson Edexcel Advanced GCE in Chinese - spoken Mandarin (9CN0)**.

Paper 1: Listening, reading and translation (2 hours, 40% of the qualification, 80 marks)

- Questions answered in English.

Paper 2: Written response to works and translation (2 hours and 40 minutes, 30% of the qualification, 120 marks)

- One essay on the novel and one on the film, plus a translation task (questions in English and Chinese).

Paper 3: Speaking (23 minutes, including 5 minutes' preparation time, 30% of the qualification, 72 marks)

- Internally conducted and externally assessed.

Extra-curricular opportunities

Our pupils could take part in the following activities:

- Mentoring programme for younger pupils in the school
- Outreach for primary schools
- Extended learning lessons
- Cultural trip to China
- Trip to Cambridge University
- University conference
- Guest speakers
- Oxford translation competition
- Take part in the Department Cultural programme
- A Level pupils will have the opportunity to run Chinese Club.